



## ZIMMER RADIO & MARKETING GROUP

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September 18, 2018

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) to Accelerate Investment in Broadband and Next-Generation Networks, WC Docket No. 18-141

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am writing to you on behalf of Zimmer Radio and Marketing Group, a network of nine local radio stations in Missouri and also a provider of creative development and website design services. More than 384,000 Missouri listeners per week depend on Zimmer stations for music and news. We are a Socket customer, and we urge you not to grant USTelecom's petition.

We currently purchase high-speed internet and telephone services from Socket for five locations throughout mid-Missouri. Socket provides services via its fiber-optic network at two locations but relies on legacy technology to deliver services to three sites, including some in rural areas with few options for providers.

When we first partnered with Socket, the local telephone company couldn't offer the services we needed to connect our telephone system. Socket stepped in and helped simplify our telecom services. Over the past several years, we've been able to save time and money by partnering with one provider and managing one bill for all our locations. This means we're able to devote more time to serving our listeners as well as the clients who depend on us to grow their business.

Had Socket not been able to provide a competitive alternative, we might not have received the services we needed to run efficiently and effectively. In addition, we would be forced to deal with multiple providers who don't understand our business. Some of our rural locations would have no alternative to the incumbent provider, which would likely result in cost increases.

Please do not end the ability of providers like Socket to offer an alternative to the incumbent providers.

Sincerely,

Mike Mayfield  
Chief Engineer  
Zimmer Radio and Marketing Group

